

Security system which, in fact, is generating that surplus that we have in our budget, they want to take that money and they want to raid it. They want to use it for tax cuts.

Social Security is one of the great success stories of this Nation. Two-thirds of our retirees depend on Social Security for over half of their income. It is bedrock. It has been there, and it needs to be protected. And it needs to be preserved for the future. It is now under a sneak attack. Make no bones about it. While the country is distracted, they want to take that money.

Are Democrats for tax cuts? You bet. But not at the risk of the Social Security trust fund.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4112, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1999

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 550 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 550

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 4112) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEY). The gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS) is recognized for 1 hour.

(Mr. MCINNIS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL) pending which I yield myself such time as I might consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, the proposed rule for the conference report to accompany H.R. 4112, the legislative branch appropriations for fiscal year 1999, waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration. The rule provides that the conference report will be considered as read.

Mr. Speaker, the underlying conference report for the legislative branch appropriations for fiscal year 1999 represents achievements towards a smaller and smarter government. It shows the progress that can be reached when the will and the effort to make necessary reforms are present.

Some of my colleagues Mr. Speaker, may point out that this conference report provides a slight 2.71 percent increase in spending over last year's level. I would like to note that, in fact, the fiscal year 1999 legislative branch appropriations are still \$40.6 million less than fiscal year 1995 levels.

Next year Federal employees will receive a 3.6 percent cost of living adjustment. The legislative branch appropriations conference report only provides for a 2.71 percent increase overall. Of the whole legislative branch budget, 80 percent of the funding goes towards salaries. The increase of 2.71 percent in the fiscal year 1999 legislative branch appropriations conference report represents less of an increase in salaries than the Federal salary cost of living adjustments. Moreover, the legislative branch appropriations conference report reduces the employment level by 1.7 percent. In fact, since 1994, over 15 percent of the legislative branch has been downsized.

Mr. Speaker, no other branch of the Federal Government comes close to this amount of downsizing. The fiscal year 1999 legislative branch appropriations conference report does include some important spending increases where necessary. For example, the legislation will increase the level of our Capitol Police salaries and expenses, recognizing the important job the men and women who make up the Capitol Police force perform.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) and the ranking member, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO) for their bipartisan efforts to create a smaller, smarter government to provide leadership by example.

Mr. Speaker, this is a noncontroversial rule which the Committee on Rules reported by a voice vote.

The underlying legislation and conference report is bipartisan and financially responsible. The conferees did an excellent job of allocating scarce resources while building upon internal reforms we have adopted in recent years to improve congressional operations.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote yes on this rule as well as to agree to the conference report.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the gentleman from Colorado for yielding me the time. As he has explained, this is a rule that waives all points of order against the conference report on H.R. 4112, which is a bill that makes appropriations for the legislative branch for fiscal year 1999. The bill appropriates a total of \$2.3 billion for the operations of Congress and other agencies in the legislative branch.

This amount is less than 3 percent, less than 3 percent higher than last year's appropriation. The measure substantially increases funding for the Capitol Police. This will provide police officers higher pay, especially if they work Sundays, holidays and nights. This is a fair increase for the men and women who are so important to the secure operations of the Capitol complex.

This bill represents the last legislative branch appropriation bill guided

by our friend and colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO), who will be retiring at the end of this Congress.

The gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO) and I both began our service with the 96th Congress back in 1979. Later he became chairman of the appropriations subcommittee on the legislative branch and then the ranking minority member.

In these roles, the gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO) led passage of the appropriations bills. That was no easy task since anything connected with funding Congress has the potential for controversy.

Throughout his tenure, the gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO) has been a credit to the residents of California's 3rd district and to the House of Representatives. He has accumulated a great deal of wisdom and experience that will be sorely missed especially in the difficult times ahead.

We need more Members like the gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO) in the House.

Mr. Speaker, the rule was approved by the Committee on Rules on a voice vote with no objections. I urge adoption of the rule.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First of all, dittos on the remarks about the gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO). I have appreciated his work and appreciated the service that he has given to us. Although I have often found myself on the other end of the voting scheme of the gentleman from California, I can say the gentleman from California has always acted with integrity and honor.

Mr. Speaker, I think an important thing about the legislative appropriation we have here is that this year still reflects a significant amount of money less than when we first took the House in 1995. I had heard earlier somebody on the other side of the aisle commenting about how this House had brought this House into fiscal order. In fact, I think Members will find that this House, speaking literally of the House, was brought into fiscal order when the Republicans took control.

We have had cooperation from the other side of the aisle. Clearly this rule indicates that we have cooperation as we put this budget together.

This House really a leaner and meaner machine. We have taken a look at all the different operations contained within the House. We have looked at where we have needs and, where we have needs, we have accommodated those needs. For example, this year in the Capitol Police force, I know that my colleague from Ohio is a big fan of the Capitol Police and has worked very hard for this appropriation. We have made that allocation. We know that we have one of the top police forces, but we know that we are also now providing the resources that they need.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT).

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to the gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO) who will be leaving us. I did not agree with him all the time, but he is a great Member. He will be sorely missed. I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO) for incorporating most of my bill, H.R. 2828, that elevates the pay of the Capitol Police by some 12 percent.

I would also like to say to the Congress that I think we have to go a little further. I think that we have to incorporate in authorizing language some of the other structural changes that I offer in 2828 with my good friend the gentleman from California (Mr. NEY) who is in the chair today. That is, we must increase the size of the force, maybe up to 400, 600 personnel. We should change the mandatory retirement age from 57 to 60, as I had submitted, so we can retain our most experienced officers and handle some of the benefit problems they experience.

And finally, I think we need to give the chief flexibility to stop the erosion of the good, young officers that are being recruited by surrounding agencies, and I think the 12 percent pay increase does that.

I think we have to address some of the other issues. On balance, it is a good conference report. I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH). I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO).

I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), and I would hope that H.R. 2828, that the gentleman from California (Mr. NEY) and I have brought to the Congress, could in fact be brought out and handle some of those other problems for the Capitol Police, because I think it will serve the Nation well.

□ 1045

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH), and I want to acknowledge all his efforts. We appreciate them very much. It says something when one is able to work on this kind of basis, in a bipartisan way. What the gentleman has done with the legislative appropriation budget, coming into the Committee on Rules where he received a voice vote, not even contested up there, that says a lot.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado for yielding me this time and for his kind words and for the voice vote that we received in the Committee on Rules. It is somewhat unusual. But I think it reflects the approach that my very good friend

and colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO), and I have taken in this bill.

Our staffs work very, very closely together. We share ideas. We try to honor each party's requests. After all, this is the budget that funds the workings of this body and of the Senate. And what is in the interest of the Democratic Party is also in the interest of the Republican Party when it comes to making sure this House runs efficiently.

Bipartisanship is not always possible. In fact, the Founding Fathers set it up so that partisanship would be the catalyst that really makes this country move forward progressively. But in the case of this bill, I think bipartisanship is an important ingredient, and I am very pleased that we have been able to work together.

I would like to thank the Committee on Rules for honoring our request on the rule. I would also like to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON), who has provided great leadership to the House and to the Committee on Rules over the years. This is the last legislative branch bill to come before him in his chairmanship, and I want to take this opportunity to thank him personally for all the good advice and counsel that he has provided to me over the years. He is one of our New York State leaders and has set a high standard for all of us.

I would also like to take this opportunity, and I will thank the other members of the subcommittee during the discussion of the bill, and the staff, but I would just like to take the opportunity to join with my colleagues in thanking the gentleman from California (Mr. VIC FAZIO) for the leadership that he has provided throughout the years on this sometimes most difficult of bills.

I remember when I first came to the Congress back in 1988, took office in 1989, there was a big to-do about a pay raise. Now, if one is going to go through hell in the legislative process, the pay raise is probably the best way to get there. Because it is never popular, no matter what. And people will say, well, we should have a pay raise when the country has a balanced budget. Well, we have a balanced budget, but I would suspect if we did a poll, most people would say Congress still does not deserve a pay raise. But the fact of the matter is, on occasion, all good workers should be compensated. VIC FAZIO took that challenge.

He also did this subcommittee a favor, by the way, by moving that from this subcommittee to another subcommittee so that the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO) and I do not have to deal with that sticky issue anymore. But the fact of the matter is VIC FAZIO has been a leader, a stand-up guy for the Congress, and it is a tough role for anyone to fill, and it is not always politically popular. But he has never used the subcommittee to do anything but give credit to the Congress.

VIC is a good Democrat. As a Republican, I think I can say that. He is a partisan, but when it comes to the conduct of this office and the conduct of the subcommittee and the protection of this very important and integral body in our government, VIC FAZIO has shown real leadership over the years, and we are deeply indebted to him.

Mr. Speaker, I will save the remainder of my remarks for the bill, and I urge unanimous support of the rule.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND).

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to take this moment to pay tribute to my friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. VIC FAZIO), and to congratulate him on a terrific career in public service, and to personally thank him for the leadership he has given our party and to me personally, as a freshman Member of this great democratic institution.

In fact, his retirement is not only a great loss to this House, but it is also a tremendous loss to future freshmen classes who will not benefit from his leadership, his wise counsel and advice, his timely wit, and the force of his example, which has been nothing less than the highest form of integrity and respect for this institution.

I have watched him time and time again unite our caucus and keep us from taking ourselves a little too seriously sometimes and unite this House by working in a bipartisan fashion. I know I have benefitted from his presence here, just from what I have learned from him. He is one of the great examples of why term limits would, on occasion, hurt the function of our democracy.

I know one of the secrets to VIC's effectiveness. It is not just the charm and the wit, the grace and the intelligence, but it is his smile. I have seen that in another great public servant in this country, my former boss, Senator Bill Proxmire, who recently wrote a book, "The Joyride to Hell," in which he advocates smiling more for a healthy life. Well, VIC does not have to read the book. In fact, he could have written the book.

Keep on smiling, VIC. This body is going to miss you. I personally am going to miss you greatly. Have a great retirement.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE).

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I also rise this morning to pay tribute to a friend of this institution, a friend of the American people, and a dear friend of mine, the gentleman from California (Mr. VIC FAZIO). He is a dedicated public servant and a leader who not only has served as chair of our Democratic Caucus but as a senior member on the Committee on Appropriations in making sure that the people's business was done in an appropriate manner.

This year I had the privilege to serve as co-chair of the Education Task Force for our Caucus. I worked closely with the gentleman on our education reform plans to strengthen public education for our children.

VIC, I want to thank you for your leadership and putting together plans to build new schools for our children, to reduce class sizes, to improve the teacher quality all across this country and to increase academic standards for all children wherever they may happen to live.

As a member of the Juvenile Justice Task Force, the gentleman had the same kind of vision of making sure that we had tough but fair laws, that we had smart approaches to crack down on violent juvenile offenders and prevent juvenile crime before it occurred.

Even on issues that the gentleman and I did not agree on, that affected my State, he had the willingness to listen, which is a hallmark in the tradition he has had. As my colleagues have already heard, that is why he is so effective, not only in our caucus but in this body. His quick smile, his quick wit and his deep understanding of issues.

The American people owe the gentleman from California (Mr. VIC FAZIO) a debt of gratitude for his years of service to this Nation, and I give my deepest personal thanks and profound admiration for his unwavering friendship and outstanding service and leadership.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN).

(Mr. GREEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my colleagues in expressing my appreciation for my friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. VIC FAZIO). When this session ends, the Democratic Caucus and the House of Representatives will be losing one of our most respected Members. Vic has served with distinction as chairman of our Democratic Caucus, and although the times have not been the best for our Caucus, Vic has kept us focused on the issues that really are important to the American people. Since first coming to Washington in 1979, he earned a reputation as one of Capitol Hill's most effective legislators.

On a personal note, I want to thank the gentleman for his support and leadership as a member of the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development of the Committee on Appropriations, in the expansion of the Port of Houston project that is so important to deepening and widening the channels. It is important to my community but also to my area.

This is one small effort of hundreds, both big and small, that VIC has worked on in his career here in Congress to make our country a much better place to live.

VIC, I have enjoyed working with you during my three terms and learning from you, and I wish you the best in your retirement.

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. PACKARD).

(Mr. PACKARD asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding me this time. I wish to come and pay tribute also to my dear friend and colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. VIC FAZIO). VIC was chairman of the subcommittee that I have in the past chaired and is now chaired by the gentleman from New York.

The gentleman kind of broke the ice for me chairing a subcommittee and kind of taught me the ropes, and I just deeply appreciated the advice, the leadership, the example that he showed on quite a bipartisan subcommittee that we served on. It was the first subcommittee I served on as a member of the Committee on Appropriations, and I could not have had a better chairman and a better example, and I personally want to thank him for that.

He served for 2 years, or at least I served with him for 2 years as he chaired the subcommittee. I have always appreciated his friendship, and I will always appreciate the way he directed that committee. I could not have succeeded him in guiding the affairs of that committee had I not had the lessons I learned from him.

People sometimes say there is too much partisanship in Washington, and I am sure at times this is true, but I think that the gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO) has remained one of the most respected Members of the Congress. His ability to work with everyone is legendary, and he has never let partisanship come before the interest of his constituents and the good of the Nation and I think is an example we could all follow.

I want to personally express my appreciation to his service in the Congress, to the great contribution he has made to California, to his district and to the Nation as a whole. I want to commend to the Members of the Congress for this bill and recommend that it be passed, and I support it.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN).

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that we take time in this particular appropriations bill to pay a small tribute to our retiring colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. VIC FAZIO). Because while VIC's imprint is in so many areas of public policy in this institution, his work for this particular institution and this particular subcommittee has made all of our lives better and I believe has made the institution much stronger.

With all of the exhilarations of public office and the trials and tribulations, the reasons one thinks about

leaving this place, whether it is the other party ending our entitlement program to control of the institution, whether it is even the kind of situation we are in now, the news that VIC FAZIO had decided to leave this institution, to no longer make the House his home, was perhaps, for me, the most unsettling of all.

I have known the gentleman from California for 25 years. He is a consummate political pro. He is a man of tremendous intelligence, incredible patience, great warmth and, as much as anything else, a man of total dependability. When VIC FAZIO tells you he will take care of something, he takes care of it.

I think the Almanac of American Politics put it well when they said about VIC, "FAZIO is a consummate political insider. Always personable and articulate. Entirely presentable outside the back rooms and private hallways. Knowledgeable without being cynical. A sharp operator who keeps score and remembers friends. A politician who is anything but an innocent, but who retains an idealism and a willingness to take serious risks for what he believes."

He is truly one of the great Members of this institution. We are going to miss him very much. I am going to miss him very much; and I wish him well in his pursuits, which I think will be many, as he leaves this institution.

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS).

(Mr. LEWIS of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, it is a very special moment for me to come to the floor and express both my appreciation for and my disappointment in VIC FAZIO, for I do not believe we have ever sent from California a finer Member of the House of Representatives: extremely decent, talented guy, who has made a huge difference the policy direction of the House, and in doing so has made a huge difference for our State.

□ 1100

I am disappointed because I never thought I would be here in the well having a discussion about the fact that he has chosen to leave.

VIC and I share a very special background together. We have interns all over this place these days but in the old days there were not such things as interns around. One of the original fellowship programs, the Coro Foundation, attempts to attract and train young people who may go into public affairs, and VIC was one of those Coro fellows some years ago. I first got to know him in the toughest of political arenas, in Sacramento, where he was on the staff during reapportionment in the early 1970s. I have had occasion to get to know him as a very tough and serious politician. But way beyond that, he is a very tough and serious policymaker.

If you will remember, the west steps of the Capitol were held up by 20-by-20 poles for something like 30 or 40 years. VIC FAZIO had the good sense and provided the leadership to produce the funding to put our Capitol back together again. When you go to the Library of Congress and see this fabulous building, an incredible monument, VIC FAZIO provided the leadership to make sure that that building was repaired and restored to the level it is presently.

Of all of the people I have dealt with in public affairs who live by a byline that is important to me, VIC FAZIO does, and, that is, "If you don't have your word in this business, you don't have anything." Among the leaders of the country, VIC FAZIO stands out in my mind. In the future, the entire Congress will appreciate and understand the work that he has done.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLEY).

(Mr. DOOLEY of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise and pay tribute to my fellow Californian, VIC FAZIO. As Members of this institution, we have occasion to observe many of our colleagues and we learn from our colleagues. I can honestly say that in my tenure in Congress, I have learned from no other Member more than I have learned from VIC FAZIO. He epitomizes to me what it is to be a public servant, he epitomizes what it is to be an effective legislator, because VIC FAZIO understands that you have to have the commitment, you have to have the compassion, and you have to have the drive to move forward in trying to solve many of the challenges which are facing American families.

What VIC FAZIO has also demonstrated is that the way that you get things done is not simply by running out and getting in front of cameras. The way you get things done is by opening up the hood of the car and being one of the mechanics of the institution, understanding that you have got to get your hands dirty and that you have to be able to work with people from all factions of this institution to bring them together, to find those common values and those common threads which will allow us to move forward in addressing the important issues facing this country. VIC FAZIO has demonstrated that, I think, far better than any Member that has served in this institution, and he certainly has provided an excellent model for all of us.

While I have heard some of our colleagues say, VIC FAZIO, they are congratulating you and hoping the best for you on your retirement, what I am saying is that, VIC FAZIO, you are retiring from this institution but I know full well that you are not retiring from public service, and the American people

are still going to benefit from your tremendous work in the years to come.

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER).

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sincere best wishes for VIC FAZIO who is departing the Chamber after many years of dedicated service. I have known VIC for over 20 years now, and I can say that I have genuine and the utmost of respect for VIC FAZIO. He is a man of intellect, a man of sincerity, a talented legislator, but above all VIC is a true gentleman. Although we have not always seen eye to eye on all the issues, we both share a bond, our love for northern California, and the recognition that our part of the State is truly a special place.

VIC has always been acutely aware of the relevant issues, whether we were dealing with agriculture, water issues or timber matters. VIC has an amazing insight into the needs and people of California.

I will truly miss you, VIC, and the examples you have set for other Members. Your leadership and dedication for the people of northern California is certainly appreciated. I always knew when I was working with VIC FAZIO that when you gave your word to me, I could trust you completely. I always knew I could count on you to be completely straightforward. That kind of honesty is refreshing.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased we all have this opportunity today to bid farewell to a man who will be missed more than he knows. It is sometimes easy to forget that regardless of your political stances, we are all here to do the work of the American people.

VIC FAZIO, thank you for reminding us of that, and thank you for your hard work for northern California and for our Nation.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER).

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I say to the gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO), those of us in southern California love you, too.

When anybody ever thinks, as a Democrat certainly, of even the thought of running for Congress, everybody says, "You've got to talk to VIC," because he knows the strategy, he knows the tactics, he knows the politics, he knows the fund-raising. We all have to learn from his wisdom. And we all went to VIC.

But he became our mentor and our friend when we got here not just because of all the politics and the fund-raising and the strategy and the tactics that he is so great at but because that we understood his—your, VIC—your commitment to the working people, the families of California and this Nation. You really care about their jobs and their salaries, their health care, the education of their kids, the environment that they live in, the housing opportunities that they have, and it is because of your integrity and

your commitment to the real issues that surround American families that we relied on you.

Yes, you are a great politician, but you are a great human being, you are a great friend. We are going to miss you. Thank you from all of us, especially in California.

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. Having heard the gentleman from California just speak, I should probably note the first time I met the gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO) was in the locker room of the gym when I was first elected. He came up, introduced himself, and when I told him where I was from, he said, "Yes, we've done everything we can to beat you, but welcome." Ever since then I have only built my respect for you, despite the warm welcome.

But, Mr. Speaker, I should add to this that it is interesting, my colleagues on this side of the aisle, the level of respect that they do have for you. I really mean it. Your commitment to that project, to the Native Americans of this country and to the word that this Government gave to the Native Americans and you stood up in that storm and you reminded all of us on both sides of this aisle exactly what that commitment was to the Native Americans. I hope that your words live on, that at some point we can complete that as we promised we would. Certainly your integrity is well-known over here and well-respected.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR).

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time. Thank you for this time, Members. I think we are recognizing today one of the finest people in public service in America in our time. I have known VIC for 30 years. I came to Sacramento as a young, ex-Peace Corps volunteer looking for work and one of the first staff members I met was a consultant to the committee, VIC FAZIO. VIC was a leader at that time. This is the activism of the 1960s. VIC was always concerned about how we can portray government in the best light, how can we get people to be participatory in this democracy. At the time he had come out of the Coro Foundation, very involved in this idea of internship and the ability to volunteer in learning how government works and how business works. He was instrumental in founding a magazine that could report about government, the California Journal. It is wonderful when you are a founder of a magazine that writes nice things about you. It describes VIC as one of the California delegation's most respected members. I think he is one of California's most respected politicians, because he is the role model for the youth that are around here today, of bright young kids that come into politics. He is the

role model for elected officials, whether it is at the State level where he rose to leadership positions very rapidly, served in the legislature, and then came to Congress where he rose to leadership positions in this House. VIC is a natural-born leader.

Of that I think in an era when people are questioning government, when there is a lot of cynicism about whether you ought to participate, we ought to turn in this Nation to VIC FAZIO and say, "This is the kind of people we want in government and life." If you meet him, you will be engaged.

So I speak today as a person who has known him a long time and watched him in his early years. He was just as effective in his early years in youth as he is in his senior years here as a Member of Congress. This House, this institution and American politics will truly miss one of the great leaders in America today, VIC FAZIO.

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN).

(Mr. HORN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, VIC FAZIO is a unique individual. He has had strong support from both Republicans and Democrats in the California delegation. He has tried to be helpful to all Members. He has been in key positions in this Chamber, positions that have showed the respect of his own party in electing him to Chamber-wide responsibilities as one of their leaders. He has certainly been in a great position to carry out the values he believes in, that many of us believe in, a decent and an improved environment, in water resources to help the arid places in the United States, including California. We thank you for your years of congressional service.

He was a highly respected State legislator in our own State. He carried those skills on. As you will notice, he has one of the great smiles in this Chamber. It reminds me about the other body and what was once said about Carl Hayden, who was also a great legislator involved in reclamation. Guy Cordon of Oregon observed, "Carl Hayden has smiled more money through the United States Senate than any other Senator did in legitimate debate." I think we can say that about VIC. We thank you for all you have done.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TAUSCHER).

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I am a new Member of Congress. I came here in January of 1997. Unlike many of my colleagues, I had never been elected before. I came out of the business world.

I have been very blessed in the past. When I had a seat on the New York Stock Exchange, I remember looking around at all the people down there and trying to find an anchor, trying to find some people that I could emulate, some people that I believed were wor-

thy of having followers. Since I was one of the first women on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, I did not have a lot of women to emulate. I found a very good gentleman that I followed.

When I came here, although I have a lot of wonderful colleagues in California that are women, NANCY PELOSI being one of them, I looked at VIC FAZIO and said, God never blessed me with a big brother. I still have my parents. But if I ever had to pick a big brother, it would be VIC FAZIO. VIC FAZIO's dedication to his constituents, to the State of California and to the golden rule of Congress is legendary, and his dedication to his family I think is even more important.

I want to offer you, VIC, and Judy and the rest of your family all the blessings. I know you are not retiring. I know you are going to be there for us. I thank you for all you have done.

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS).

(Mr. THOMAS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I am tempted to begin this by saying that everything I have heard does not sound very familiar because I know VIC FAZIO, and VIC FAZIO is a friend of mine.

I first got to know VIC FAZIO before he was in elective office. Then when he was first elected in the California Assembly, I served with him as a colleague. We were both a little bit younger then, and we actually could play basketball as an exercise.

He and I have been on the opposite side of a number of issues over the years, and we both came back to Congress in the 96th Congress in 1978, he, as he was in the California Assembly, a member of the majority, and I was a member of the minority. For 16 years, that relationship continued.

□ 1115

During the 16 years, when he was in the majority and I was in the minority, he was always fair. We could always get the straight story. He would tell us what he could and then tell us, sometimes, if he could not tell us. But if he could, he would. In this business that is as good as gold. He was and is a professional.

Then in the 104th Congress something happened that probably neither he, nor I, if you really pushed me, thought would ever occur. He became a member of the minority, and I became a member of the majority. I became the chairman of a committee, and he was the ranking member, and I tried to treat him as fairly as he had treated me, and I hope he believes that in the sharing of information which was fairly volatile at the time when we were the new majority, I indicated to him that I trusted him implicitly, and of course I had no worry about that trust

because he continued to carry himself as a professional.

It has been a pleasure, Mr. Speaker. The gentleman from California and I have not been on the same side on too many noninstitutional issues; I think on every institutional issue we have been on the same side. I had not thought that the gentleman would leave at this time. He is a valuable resource to this institution. He has decided to leave and the institution is a lesser place for it.

I look forward to seeing the gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO) in our different capacities, Mr. Speaker, but I just want to say that, notwithstanding our inability to work together on a number of issues, our ability to work together as professionals in this body has been a very rewarding experience for me.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding this time to me.

Mr. Speaker, it was my experience to come to this body in the midst of the 104th Congress right after the government shutdown, and passions were high, and I was thrust into an interesting situation. I felt like I was a high school freshman in a body of 435 senior class presidents. The gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO) was one of the bright spots for me, somebody who helped me understand what was going on, somebody who took the time and patience that was certainly not merited by anything on my part.

Mr. Speaker, I deeply appreciate what the gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO) represents. I am only starting to understand what he has done for this institution, and I have enjoyed listening today to the testimonies of many of the gentleman's colleagues, and I am sure that I will continue, as time goes on, to understand what he has done to make this a better place.

But it is the gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO), the man, in which I stand in awe. Despite difficult personal times, one of the more challenging districts in the United States and what I think most would regard as a near impossible task, chairing our caucus, he has always been a beacon of rationality, civility and thoughtfulness.

Life in this institution is not a life sentence. The gentleman from California has earned the right to accept new challenges and opportunities for himself and his family. But I know my constituents got a Congressperson who is a little better because of the gentleman's thoughtfulness and knowledge, and I know that we are all better by dint of his service.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California, (Mr. WAXMAN).

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with a sense of sadness that I speak today because I am really sorry to see the gentleman from California (Mr.

FAZIO) leave this institution. I also rise with a great deal of appreciation for the work that he has done in his career in public service.

We first met each other when Vic was a staffer and I was a member of the State Assembly in California. Later he was elected to the Assembly, we served as colleagues there and for the past 20 years here.

I think the gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO) is in the category of being someone who is absolutely indispensable. He is the Member who will always work hard, doing more than his fair share of the work. He will take on issues that others avoid, and he will be more interested in making sure that, at the end of the day, we have an accomplishment than the fact that he might get a moment or two on the national television network coverage.

The gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO) is the kind of person that reminds us that we should be proud of those who seek a career in public service. He is a politician and he is a legislator, and in both of those areas he is a professional. This institution is going to miss him enormously.

I know that all of us have seen the deterioration of civility in this House, the People's House. We have differences of opinion. But we need Members like the gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO) who can express the differences in a way that will look for accommodations, ways to build bridges to each other and ways to reach a point where we can have accomplishments.

When we think about the debates that we have had in politics in the last couple of years where people have prided themselves on inexperience, on not knowing how the system worked, on not being insiders, of not being professional politicians, the gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO) stands out as a reason why they are wrong. He is a leader, he is an insider, he is respected, he is a pro. I want to say to him he has been a great friend to me and Janet, and I want to wish VIC and Judy all the very best.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, as a friend and admirer of the gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO), it is with mixed feelings that I rise today to congratulate him and wish him much success in what lies ahead for him and for Judy Fazio, but with some sadness and disappointment, of course, for this body because his departure is a tremendous loss to our Congress and to our country.

Others have talked about the gentleman's record in California, and I certainly, as former chair of the California Democratic Party many years ago, am well aware of that. I remember the gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO) in the 1970s as a top-notch administrator to the California State Assembly, and then as a member of the Assembly himself, and then very quickly

rising to become a Member of this body, all along the way gaining respect for his values and his principles.

It is just something one says in California about any issue: "Have you spoken to Vic?" No last name, just, "Have you spoken to Vic?", and that meant that that was the touchstone, that was the place we went, that he was the compass, he could give direction to us.

And others have talked about what a great party leader he has been as a Democrat, really with a large "D" and a small "d." Certainly we are proud of him as a political leader of our party, but a small "d" of bringing people into participation and into leadership, Choral Foundation, talent scouting from the very young people and into his leadership in this body as chair of our caucus.

The sky is the limit for the gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO). He has chosen to leave us now, but, of course, we all wish him much success.

But I want to talk about just one other phase, and that is the pride I take in the gentleman's service in Congress personally as a member of the Italian-American community. In his service here and in his service to our country he has always represented the values of our community, family values, a commitment to family, to education, to hard work, to commitment, to religion and to making the future brighter for our children. And it was this respect that he had for his own, this pride he had for his own heritage, that led him to respect the diversity in our country and the pride that all of those people took. So he is our all-American, Italian-American, great Democratic leader. We will miss him. Paul and I give our best regards to Judy for her contribution as well and to the gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO) for much success in the future.

I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO) on behalf of my constituents and personally.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE).

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to join in these tributes to the gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO), a Member I regard as the model of what a Member of this body ought to be and a wonderful human being.

VIC FAZIO is a man of many facets. He is a fine legislator. He is skilled in the workings of this body. He does not have a match among us in his ability to work through difficult issues, to find a basis for accommodation. He looks out very, very effectively for California's interests, but he also helps all of us do our job for our constituents.

The gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO) is a guardian of this institution. He is eloquent, as any of us can testify, in rebuking those who would take cheap shots at this institution, attempting to polish their own reputations at the expense of the Congress. But he is not uncritical; he has his own

agenda for change. He is a loving critic of this place and has been a leader in finance reform and ethics reform and making the Congress a more responsive, more effective institution. He has been a builder at a time when many were ready to destroy, and history will judge his role as a constructive and important one.

The gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO) is a man of great personal strength and depth. He has endured a devastating loss in his own family and has, in turn, reached out to many others in this body in times of stress and grief, proving himself a true friend and a source of spiritual strength.

And I know staff feel that way, too. How many times have members of our staffs expressed their admiration for the gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO) as one who respects them, who treats them as peers, who knows how to work with all kinds of people to make good and important things happen?

And, finally, the gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO) is a treasured colleague. He has been a mentor for many of us; I have felt that way since the first day I arrived here. He is a source of good advice, a source of encouragement, a friend in good times and bad. I feel personally indebted to him for what he has meant to me and for many of my friends and colleagues.

We bid VIC FAZIO a very reluctant farewell today. We hope we will see a lot more of him, but we will miss the good work and good humor and good collegiality that have contributed so much to our life in this House.

We bid farewell to the gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO) with great admiration and affection, great personal indebtedness and all good wishes.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MATSUI).

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Mr. HALL, the gentleman from Ohio, for yielding this time to me.

I was fortunate and honored to come in in 1979 with the gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO). We were a class of 77 members, 44 Democrats and 33 Republicans. And last November, November of 1997, when the gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO) told me, we were at McClelland Air Force Base. He wanted to call me later that night and asked where I was, and we spoke on the phone, and he said that he was retiring and leaving the Congress. I have to say that after I got over my shock it was probably one of the saddest occasions that I have had. And since that time I have had an opportunity to really think of his role in this institution and back home and as a colleague of mine, adjacent are our districts, and I have come to really believe that our constituents in Sacramento, northern California and all of California in January will really come to understand the value of the gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO).

Mr. Speaker, we will not have his advice, we will not have his counsel, we

will not have his very powerful role in the House Committee on Appropriations. We will not have his ability to glue all of the California delegation, all the very diverse elements of the California delegations together. And I have to say that the gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO) in my opinion is really one of the true giants and one of the true leaders, the Dick Bollings of the world, those that really gave stature to this institution. He will be remembered in that light.

From a personal level I just have to say that I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO) very much because, over the 20 years that we have had the opportunity to serve together, through his example he really taught me and I have learned through him the real value of what it is to be a politician.

□ 1130

You, more than any other person, have given me really the kind of understanding what a noble profession it really could be through your example and through your leadership.

Personally, I am just going to really miss you a lot. We have become almost the best of friends. You and Judy, I have to say, are wonderful people, and you mean so much to Doris and myself and to all of us in this country. Thank you for your service.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield two minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS).

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, along with my colleagues, I share the feeling that this is one of those moments where it is awfully difficult to explain our true feelings about a friend of ours and a true public servant.

I would imagine that these speeches will not make the national headlines tomorrow, because there is no controversy, there is nothing but unanimity in this House about the public service and the character of our friend and colleague, VIC FAZIO. I wish his life would be in the headlines tomorrow, because he would be a reminder to young people, from California to Maine to Texas, that it is a noble calling to be in public service.

Winston Churchill once said that we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give. Based on the high standards of that statesman, the life of VIC FAZIO has been a rich life, and I am confident will continue to be a rich life, for what he has given, given to his district, given to the State of California and given to the Nation. There will be other occasions where I am sure we can list all of his many accomplishments.

Having served with him on the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development of the Committee on Appropriations, I am grateful for what he has done to help save families all across this country from the devastation of future floods and for what he has done to preserve future generations in America by bringing about programs,

important programs, to put aside the waste from nuclear power plants. There are millions of families who will benefit from VIC FAZIO'S life, but they will never know that, because their home will not be flooded, or perhaps there will not be a nuclear incident. But just as surely as we are here today to express our gratitude to VIC for his life of accomplishment, there are Americans all across this land of ours that should be and will be deeply grateful and will have benefitted from what he did.

Finally, in a body and in a process that usually rates people by the list of their accomplishments, I must say that while VIC'S list would be lengthy, the fact is that all of us respect him and will remember him even more for the kind of person that he is, for the character, the decency, that we could only dream about and want to have in public service.

So to our friend and colleague, we say God speed and wish you all the best in the years to come. Thank you for your great service to our country.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield one minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN).

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend from Ohio for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, what a great legacy VIC FAZIO will leave when he retires from this institution. I think we all could try to emulate what he has done as a Congressman.

Yes, VIC will be known for what he has done for the people of California, the economic programs he has brought forward and the effectiveness with which he has represented the people of California. He will be known in this Nation as a champion on environmental issues, on family and children issues, on human rights issues. But, Mr. Speaker, I would like to use the little time I have just to point out what a great legacy he has left on the love for this institution and trying to strengthen this institution.

He has served on our Committee on Standards of Official Conduct; he served as chairman of our Caucus, and he has always strengthened this institution and provided the integrity that is expected by the American people. He has strengthened the ability of everyone to have the voices of their constituents heard.

What a great record, what a great individual, what a great friend. He will be sorely missed. I can tell you there are not many like him. I am glad to call him my friend.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, before yielding back the balance of my time, I would just simply say that this has been a tremendous tribute to VIC FAZIO, and it has been impromptu. I have not seen anybody come over here with a written speech. It has been very, very bipartisan.

It is almost too bad that we wait until somebody's career is over in the

Congress before we say these things. We ought to maybe start to figure out where we are when we have a great person here in the middle of their term and praise them right then. I think it would be so much better to let them know what we think of them.

We think a lot of VIC FAZIO, not only as a professional, as a legislator, but as a wonderful person, a good man. We will miss him, the country will miss him, and we appreciate him very much.

VIC, I know you are going to say a few things later on, so I look forward to listening to them.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), my colleague on the Committee on Rules, his words are well spoken.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to H. Res. 550, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 4112) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEY). Pursuant to House Resolution 550, the conference report is considered as having been read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of September 22, 1998, at page H8085.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the conference report to accompany H.R. 4112 and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today we bring before the House the conference report on the fiscal year 1999 Legislative Branch appropriations bill, H.R. 4112, and ask my colleagues for their support.

This conference report is a bipartisan agreement, worked out with our colleagues in the other body, with a unanimous vote among the conferees. Before I begin to highlight the agreement, I would like to recognize every member of the subcommittee for their contribution to this work product: On the majority side, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG), the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM), the

gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP) and the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LATHAM); from the minority side, my good friend and colleague, the ranking member, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO), along with the gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER). All of these Members worked as a team to produce this final conference report.

Our original bill, H.R. 4112, and now the conference report, reflect the hard work and the dedication of a tireless staff from both sides of the aisle. I would like to again thank Ed Lombard, Art Jutton, Tom Martin, Lucy Hand, Greg Dahlberg, and Johanna Kenny for their daily contributions needed to produce our final product.

Lastly, I believe it is of great importance to also thank every employee who serves here in the People's House, and we see them all around us. Without your dedication, this House simply could not function. On behalf of every Member honored to serve here, I want to say a simple but sincere thank you all for a job well done. We, the Members, deeply appreciate your efforts.

Mr. Speaker, let me begin to summarize the conference report. To summarize, the conference agreement appropriates \$2.3 billion in new budget authority to the Congress and the support agencies and offices of the Legislative Branch. This amount is \$116.8 million below the amount requested in the President's budget. That is a 4.7 percent reduction.

Compared to the current level, the \$2.3 billion is a slight increase over the \$2.28 billion appropriated last year. The 2.7 percent increase overall is below the prospective 3.6 percent cost of living allowance that will probably be given to all Federal employees, including the Legislative Branch staff.

This conference agreement appropriation level is \$41 million below the amount appropriated for the Legislative Branch in 1995, four years later. So the downsizing program begun under the leadership of the gentleman from California (Chairman PACKARD) and the ranking member, the gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO), in the 104th Congress, is still intact.

The House conferees were instructed to concur in the Senate amendment on the Capitol Police which restored \$4,197,000 in reductions made by the House bill. The conferees did that. In fact, the conference agreement is above both the House and Senate amendment level with respect to the Capitol Police.

The House bill appropriated \$76,381,000 for police salaries and expenses, the Senate appropriated \$80,578,000 and the conference report is \$83,081,000.

So we have complied with the House instructions to the conferees, and in the spirit of the instruction we have added additional amounts to fund the parity pay and longevity increases requested for the men and women of our

police force who have served us so courageously.

A few other highlights, Mr. Speaker. The Legislative Branch jobs, the positions in the Legislative Branch have been reduced another 405 FTEs below the current year. The adjustment to the House-passed items agreed to include:

The conferees added \$9.4 million above the House bill for the Architect of the Capitol, which will fund several security-related projects. Under the Architect, the funds to design an integrated security program and other security design costs for police activities, \$1.5 million; funds to begin replacement of the aging chillers at the Capitol Power Plant, \$5 million; and funds to uniform the workers of the Architect for security reasons, \$193,000.

The conferees also agreed to language which makes permanent the authorization of the American Folk Life Center at the Library of Congress. The conferees also agreed to provide \$1 million to be matched by 1 million private dollars raised by the National Trust for Historic Preservation to maintain in perpetuity the Congressional Cemetery. The Congressional Cemetery was determined to be one of the 11 most endangered historic sites in America. Our subcommittee, working together with the Senate, decided that we would appropriate \$1 million of taxpayer funds to be used as matching funds to maintain this by setting up a trust fund.

The cemetery, as I mentioned before, is not a place where we are entitled to go when we pass on to our final reward. Members of Congress are not buried there by entitlement. If we wish to be, we can be, as have other members of the Legislative and Executive Branch, individuals who have worked in all capacity for the government, and private citizens.

It is run as any other cemetery is. It is just that given its historic nature, we felt that a commitment should be made, since it had fallen into disrepair. We are very proud of this, Mr. Speaker, and hopefully this will be a contribution that this subcommittee has made to our posterity.

Again, I thank my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO), who I look forward to working with on a bipartisan basis when the New York Yankees win this year's world series.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to present the conference report on the FY1999 legislative branch appropriations bill, H.R. 4112.

To summarize, the conference agreement appropriates \$2.3 billion (\$2,349,937,100) in new budget authority to the Congress and the support agencies and offices of the legislative branch. This amount is \$116.8 million (\$116,829,500) below the amount requested in the President's budget. That is a 4.7% cut-back.

Compared to the current level, the \$2.3 billion is a slight increase over the \$2.28 billion appropriated for fiscal 1998. The 2.7% increase is below the prospective 3.6% cost of living adjustment that will probably be given to

all Federal employees—including the Legislative branch staff.

This conference agreement appropriation level is \$41 million below the amount appropriated for the legislative branch in 1995. So, the downsizing program begun in the 104th Congress is still intact.

The House conferees were instructed to concur in the Senate amendment on the Capitol Police which restored \$4,197,000 in reductions made by the House bill. The conferees did that. In fact, the conference agreement is above both the House bill and the Senate amendment with respect to the Capitol Police.

The House bill appropriated \$76,381,000 for Police Salaries and Expenses, the Senate appropriated \$80,578,000, and the conference agreement provides \$83,081,000.

So, we have complied with the instruction of the House to the House conferees, and in the spirit of the instruction, we have added additional amounts to fund the parity pay and longevity increases requested for the men and women of our police force.

Highlights of the conference report: Operations of the Senate: \$469.4 million (\$469,391,000); operations of the House: \$734.1 million (\$734,107,700); joint items (Joint committees, Capitol police, guide service, etc.): \$96.1 million (\$96,134,400); Architect of the Capitol: \$201.9 million (\$201,910,000), including the Botanic Garden and Library buildings; Library of Congress: \$363.6 million (\$363,640,000), including the Congressional Research Service; Congressional Budget Office: \$25.7 million (\$26,671,000); Office of Compliance: \$2.1 million (\$2,086,000); Government Printing Office: \$103.7 million (\$103,729,000); and General Accounting Office: \$354.3 million (\$354,268,000), plus a transfer of unexpended balances of FY1998 funds.

I will include a table showing details and a list of the highlights of the conference agreement.

It may be of some interest to compare the conference agreement to the bill that passed the House on June 25. As is customary, that bill did not contain funds for the operations of the Senate.

The House bill, without the Senate, was \$1.8 billion. For those same items, the conferees agreed to a level of \$1.82 billion. The House came up by \$21.7 million, in order to pay for some urgently needed projects. That is an increase of only 1.2%. So, the House conferees did well.

The result is an increase of \$61.6 million over the current year for House-considered items. That is 2.7% above the FY1998 level and well within the prospective 3.6% staff cost of living increase that we are told will be granted by the Administration.

In addition, Legislative Branch jobs have been reduced 405 FTE's below the current year.

The adjustments to House-passed items agreed to include:

The conferees added \$9.4 million above the House bill for the Architect of the Capitol which will fund several security-related projects.

Under the Architect: Funds to design an integrated security program and other security design costs for Police activities (\$1.5 million); funds to begin replacement of the aging chillers at the Capitol Power Plant (\$5 million); and funds to uniform the workers of the Architect for security reasons (\$193,000).

At the Library: \$2.25 million to digitize the collections and commemorate two important aspects of this country's history; and \$993,000 for theft detection tags for materials in the Library's collections

Another item of concern to the conferees was the funding for the Capitol Police. The conferees agreed to provide additional funds for pay initiatives requested by the Capitol Police Board. However, the funds remain fenced, pending approval of the appropriate authorities.

Several legislative matters were agreed to in conference. For congressional printing, a long-standing provision (carried in the House bill) on availability of funds to pay printing costs has been retained. The conferees agreed to a modification of Senate language that relates to billing procedures.

There is an administrative provision that provides for investment on National Garden gift funds in Federal securities.

Under title III of the bill, the House agreed to drop a provision for the Architect to use energy savings contracts for capital projects. We understand that the energy savings already in place reduce the appeal of the Capitol campus for such approaches. In addition, the conferees agreed to language for the buyout programs for the Architect and Public Printer. The language requires each agency to pay into the Civil Service Retirement Fund to offset the cost of early retirements. This is similar to other Federal buyout programs. The conferees have retained a provision added as a House Floor amendment requiring the Architect to develop an energy savings strategy.

The conferees agreed to language which makes permanent the authorization of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. The conferees also agreed to an amendment of a Senate provision relating to charges to the Government Printing Office by

the Employee's Compensation Fund at the Department of Labor. The amended language removes GPO as an agency responsible for administrative costs of the fund, in accord with an opinion issued by the Comptroller General.

Two House housekeeping provisions were also added, at the request of the House Oversight Committee.

SUMMARY

In summary, the bill provides \$2.3 billion (\$2,349,937,100). It is 4.7% (\$116.8) million below the requests in the President's budget. FTE levels have been reduced by 405.

The bill maintains a smaller legislative branch as established by the policies set in the 104th Congress. And it provides stability to those operations that must support our legislative needs.

I urge the adoption of the conference report.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 1999 (H.R. 4112)

	FY 1998 Enacted	FY 1999 Estimate	House	Senate	Conference	Conference compared with enacted
TITLE I - CONGRESSIONAL OPERATIONS						
SENATE						
Expense Allowances						
Expense allowances:						
Vice President.....	10,000	10,000		10,000	10,000	
President Pro Tempore of the Senate.....	10,000	10,000		10,000	10,000	
Majority Leader of the Senate.....	10,000	10,000		10,000	10,000	
Minority Leader of the Senate.....	10,000	10,000		10,000	10,000	
Majority Whip of the Senate.....	5,000	5,000		5,000	5,000	
Minority Whip of the Senate.....	5,000	5,000		5,000	5,000	
Chairman of the Majority Conference Committee.....	3,000	3,000		3,000	3,000	
Chairman of the Minority Conference Committee.....	3,000	3,000		3,000	3,000	
Subtotal, expense allowances.....	56,000	56,000		56,000	56,000	
Representation allowances for the Majority and Minority Leaders.....	30,000	30,000		30,000	30,000	
Total, Expense allowances and representation.....	86,000	86,000		86,000	86,000	
Salaries, Officers and Employees						
Office of the Vice President.....	1,612,000	1,659,000		1,659,000	1,659,000	+ 47,000
Office of the President Pro Tempore.....	371,000	402,000		402,000	402,000	+ 31,000
Offices of the Majority and Minority Leaders.....	2,388,000	2,436,000		2,436,000	2,436,000	+ 48,000
Offices of the Majority and Minority Whips.....	1,221,000	1,416,000		1,416,000	1,416,000	+ 195,000
Committee on Appropriations.....				6,050,000	6,050,000	+ 6,050,000
Conference committees.....	2,122,000	2,184,000		2,184,000	2,184,000	+ 62,000
Offices of the Secretaries of the Conference of the Majority and the Conference of the Minority.....	409,000	570,000		570,000	570,000	+ 161,000
Policy Committees.....	2,155,000	2,218,000		2,218,000	2,218,000	+ 63,000
Office of the Chaplain.....	260,000	276,000		267,000	267,000	+ 7,000
Office of the Secretary.....	13,306,000	13,694,000		13,694,000	13,694,000	+ 388,000
Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper.....	33,037,000	34,359,000		33,805,000	33,805,000	+ 768,000
Offices of the Secretaries for the Majority and Minority.....	1,165,000	1,200,000		1,200,000	1,200,000	+ 35,000
Agency contributions and related expenses.....	19,208,000	19,332,000		21,332,000	21,332,000	+ 2,124,000
Total, salaries, officers and employees.....	77,254,000	79,746,000		87,233,000	87,233,000	+ 9,979,000
Office of the Legislative Counsel of the Senate						
Salaries and expenses.....	3,605,000	3,753,000		3,753,000	3,753,000	+ 148,000
Office of Senate Legal Counsel						
Salaries and expenses.....	966,000	1,004,000		1,004,000	1,004,000	+ 38,000
Expense Allowances of the Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate, and Secretaries for the Majority and Minority of the Senate: Expenses allowances.....						
	12,000	12,000		12,000	12,000	
Contingent Expenses of the Senate						
Inquiries and investigations.....	75,600,000	74,649,000		66,800,000	66,800,000	-8,800,000
Expenses of United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control.....	370,000	370,000		370,000	370,000	
Secretary of the Senate.....	1,511,000	1,511,000		1,511,000	1,511,000	
Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate.....	64,833,000	63,511,000		60,511,000	60,511,000	-4,322,000
Miscellaneous items.....	7,905,000	7,905,000		8,655,000	8,655,000	+ 750,000
Senators' Official Personnel and Office Expense Account.....	228,600,000	243,681,000		239,156,000	239,156,000	+ 10,556,000
Stationery (revolving fund).....	13,000					-13,000
Official Mail Costs						
Expenses.....	300,000	300,000		300,000	300,000	
Total, contingent expenses of the Senate.....	379,132,000	392,127,000		377,303,000	377,303,000	-1,829,000
Total, Senate.....	461,055,000	476,728,000		469,391,000	469,391,000	+ 8,336,000
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES						
Payments to Widows and Heirs of Deceased Members of Congress						
Gratuities, deceased Members.....	270,300	133,600	136,700	136,700	136,700	-133,600
Salaries and Expenses						
House Leadership Offices						
Office of the Speaker.....	1,590,000	1,705,000	1,686,000	1,686,000	1,686,000	+ 96,000
Office of the Majority Floor Leader.....	1,626,000	1,669,000	1,652,000	1,652,000	1,652,000	+ 26,000
Office of the Minority Floor Leader.....	1,652,000	1,696,000	1,675,000	1,675,000	1,675,000	+ 23,000
Office of the Majority Whip.....	1,024,000	1,053,000	1,043,000	1,043,000	1,043,000	+ 19,000
Office of the Minority Whip.....	998,000	1,026,000	1,020,000	1,020,000	1,020,000	+ 22,000
Speaker's Office for Legislative Floor Activities.....	397,000	406,000	397,000	397,000	397,000	
Republican Steering Committee.....	736,000	753,000	738,000	738,000	738,000	+ 2,000
Republican Conference.....	1,172,000	1,205,000	1,199,000	1,199,000	1,199,000	+ 27,000

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 1999 (H.R. 4112)— continued

	FY 1998 Enacted	FY 1999 Estimate	House	Senate	Conference	Conference compared with enacted
Democratic Steering and Policy Committee.....	1,277,000	1,310,000	1,295,000	1,295,000	1,295,000	+18,000
Democratic Caucus.....	631,000	648,000	642,000	642,000	642,000	+11,000
Nine minority employees.....	1,190,000	1,218,000	1,190,000	1,190,000	1,190,000	.....
Training and Development Program:						
Majority.....			290,000	290,000	290,000	+290,000
Minority.....			290,000	290,000	290,000	+290,000
Subtotal, House Leadership Offices.....	12,293,000	12,689,000	13,117,000	13,117,000	13,117,000	+824,000
Members' Representational Allowances						
Expenses.....	379,789,000	412,964,000	385,279,000	385,279,000	385,279,000	+5,490,000
Committee Employees						
Standing Committees, Special and Select (except Appropriations).....	86,268,000	90,608,000	89,743,000	89,743,000	89,743,000	+3,475,000
Committee on Appropriations (including studies and investigations).....	18,276,000	19,731,000	19,373,000	19,373,000	19,373,000	+1,097,000
Subtotal, Committee employees.....	104,544,000	110,339,000	109,116,000	109,116,000	109,116,000	+4,572,000
Salaries, Officers and Employees						
Office of the Clerk.....	16,804,000	15,817,000	15,365,000	15,365,000	15,365,000	-1,439,000
Office of the Sergeant at Arms.....	3,564,000	3,611,000	3,501,000	3,501,000	3,501,000	-63,000
Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.....	50,727,000	58,829,000	57,211,000	57,211,000	57,211,000	+6,484,000
Office of Inspector General.....	3,808,000	4,379,000	3,953,000	3,953,000	3,953,000	+145,000
Office of General Counsel.....		840,000	840,000	840,000	840,000	+840,000
Office of the Chaplain.....	133,000	136,000	133,000	133,000	133,000	.....
Office of the Parliamentarian.....	1,101,000	1,106,000	1,106,000	1,106,000	1,106,000	+5,000
Office of the Parliamentarian.....	(852,000)	(904,000)	(904,000)	(904,000)	(904,000)	(+52,000)
Compilation of precedents of the House of Representatives.....	(249,000)	(202,000)	(202,000)	(202,000)	(202,000)	(-47,000)
Office of the Law Revision Counsel.....	1,821,000	1,957,000	1,912,000	1,912,000	1,912,000	+91,000
Office of the Legislative Counsel.....	4,827,000	4,980,000	4,980,000	4,980,000	4,980,000	+153,000
Corrections Calendar Office.....	791,000	810,000	799,000	799,000	799,000	+8,000
Other authorized employees.....	780,000	191,000	191,000	191,000	191,000	-589,000
Former Speakers.....	(594,000)					(-594,000)
Technical Assistants, Office of the Attending Physician.....	(186,000)	(191,000)	(191,000)	(191,000)	(191,000)	(+5,000)
Subtotal, Salaries, Officers and Employees.....	84,356,000	92,656,000	89,991,000	89,991,000	89,991,000	+5,635,000
Allowances and Expenses						
Supplies, materials, administrative costs and Federal tort claims.....	2,225,000	2,706,000	2,575,000	2,575,000	2,575,000	+350,000
Official mail (committees, leadership, administrative and legislative offices).....	500,000	500,000	410,000	410,000	410,000	-90,000
Government contributions.....	124,390,000	132,949,000	132,832,000	132,832,000	132,832,000	+8,442,000
Miscellaneous items.....	641,000	651,000	651,000	651,000	651,000	+10,000
Subtotal, Allowances and expenses.....	127,756,000	136,806,000	136,468,000	136,468,000	136,468,000	+8,712,000
Total, salaries and expenses.....	708,738,000	785,454,000	733,971,000	733,971,000	733,971,000	+25,233,000
Total, House of Representatives.....	709,008,300	785,587,800	734,107,700	734,107,700	734,107,700	+25,099,400
JOINT ITEMS						
Joint Economic Committee.....	2,750,000	2,796,000	2,796,000	2,796,000	3,096,000	+346,000
Joint Committee on Printing.....	804,000	804,000	352,000	202,000	352,000	-452,000
Joint Committee on Taxation.....	5,815,500	6,018,000	6,018,000	5,965,400	5,965,400	+149,900
Office of the Attending Physician						
Medical supplies, equipment, expenses, and allowances.....	1,266,000	1,383,000	1,383,000	1,415,000	1,415,000	+149,000
Capitol Police Board						
Capitol Police						
Salaries:						
Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives.....	34,118,000	36,803,000	35,022,000	35,770,000	37,037,000	+2,919,000
Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate.....	36,837,000	39,505,000	37,593,000	38,511,000	39,807,000	+2,970,000
Subtotal, salaries.....	70,955,000	76,108,000	72,615,000	74,281,000	76,844,000	+5,889,000
General expenses.....	3,099,000	8,361,000	3,766,000	6,297,000	6,237,000	+3,138,000
(By transfer).....	(4,000,000)					(-4,000,000)
Subtotal, Capitol Police.....	74,054,000	84,469,000	76,381,000	80,578,000	83,081,000	+9,027,000
Capitol Guide Service and Special Services Office.....	1,991,000	2,195,000	2,110,000	2,195,000	2,195,000	+204,000
Statements of Appropriations.....	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	.....
Total, Joint items.....	86,710,500	97,695,000	89,070,000	93,181,400	96,134,400	+9,423,900
OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE						
Salaries and expenses.....	2,479,000	2,286,000	2,088,000	2,286,000	2,086,000	-393,000

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 1999 (H.R. 4112)— continued

	FY 1998 Enacted	FY 1999 Estimate	House	Senate	Conference	Conference compared with enacted
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE						
Salaries and expenses	24,797,000	25,938,000	25,671,000	25,671,000	25,671,000	+874,000
ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL						
Capitol Buildings and Grounds						
Capitol buildings, salaries and expenses	44,477,000	55,342,000	40,347,000	44,641,000	43,683,000	-794,000
Capitol grounds	25,116,000	26,823,000	5,803,000	6,055,000	6,046,000	-19,070,000
Senate office buildings	52,021,000	55,756,000	.....	53,644,000	54,144,000	+2,123,000
House office buildings	36,810,000	43,798,000	42,139,000	42,139,000	42,139,000	+5,529,000
Capitol Power Plant	37,932,000	44,379,000	37,145,000	42,222,000	42,174,000	+4,242,000
Offsetting collections	-4,000,000	-4,000,000	-4,000,000	-4,000,000	-4,000,000	.....
Net subtotal, Capitol Power Plant	33,932,000	40,379,000	33,145,000	38,222,000	38,174,000	+4,242,000
Total, Architect of the Capitol	192,156,000	221,898,000	121,434,000	184,701,000	184,186,000	-7,970,000
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS						
Congressional Research Service						
Salaries and expenses	64,803,000	68,461,000	66,688,000	67,877,483	67,124,000	+2,521,000
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE						
Congressional printing and binding 1/	81,669,000	84,000,000	74,465,000	75,500,000	74,465,000	-7,204,000
Total, title I, Congressional Operations	1,622,477,800	1,742,593,600	1,113,521,700	1,652,715,583	1,653,165,100	+30,687,300
TITLE II - OTHER AGENCIES						
BOTANIC GARDEN						
Salaries and expenses	3,016,000	3,235,000	3,032,000	3,180,000	3,052,000	+36,000
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS						
Salaries and expenses	227,504,000	239,415,000	234,822,000	239,176,542	238,373,000	+10,869,000
Authority to spend receipts	-7,869,000	-6,500,000	-6,850,000	-6,500,000	-6,850,000	+1,019,000
Net subtotal, Salaries and expenses	219,635,000	232,915,000	227,972,000	232,676,542	231,523,000	+11,888,000
Copyright Office, salaries and expenses	34,361,000	35,269,000	33,897,000	35,269,000	34,891,000	+530,000
Authority to spend receipts	-22,426,000	-21,170,000	-21,170,000	-21,170,000	-21,170,000	+1,256,000
Net subtotal, Copyright Office	11,935,000	14,099,000	12,727,000	14,099,000	13,721,000	+1,786,000
Books for the blind and physically handicapped, salaries and expenses	46,561,000	48,145,000	46,824,000	46,895,000	46,824,000	+263,000
Furniture and furnishings	4,178,000	5,712,000	4,178,000	4,458,000	4,448,000	+270,000
Total, Library of Congress (except CRS)	282,309,000	300,871,000	291,701,000	298,128,542	296,516,000	+14,207,000
ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL						
Congressional cemetery .....	.....	.....	1,000,000	.....	1,000,000	+1,000,000
Library Buildings and Grounds						
Structural and mechanical care	11,573,000	16,139,000	11,833,000	12,566,000	12,672,000	+1,099,000
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE						
Office of Superintendent of Documents						
Salaries and expenses	29,077,000	30,200,000	29,264,000	29,600,000	29,264,000	+187,000
Government Printing Office Revolving Fund						
GPO revolving fund .....	.....	6,000,000	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total, Government Printing Office	29,077,000	36,200,000	29,264,000	29,600,000	29,264,000	+187,000
GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE						
Salaries and expenses	346,903,000	369,728,000	356,238,000	365,298,000	356,268,000	+9,365,000
Offsetting collections	-7,404,000	-2,000,000	-2,000,000	-2,000,000	-2,000,000	+5,404,000
Total, General Accounting Office	339,499,000	367,728,000	354,238,000	363,298,000	354,268,000	+14,769,000
Total, title II, Other agencies	665,474,000	724,173,000	691,168,000	706,772,542	696,772,000	+31,298,000
TITLE IV - TRADE DEFICIT REVIEW COMMISSION						
Sec. 409 Trade commission appropriation .....	.....	.....	.....	2,000,000	.....	.....
Grand total	2,287,951,800	2,466,766,600	1,804,689,700	2,361,488,125	2,349,937,100	+61,985,300
TITLE I - CONGRESSIONAL OPERATIONS						
Senate	461,055,000	476,728,000	.....	469,391,000	469,391,000	+8,336,000
House of Representatives	709,008,300	765,587,600	734,107,700	734,107,700	734,107,700	+25,099,400
Joint items	86,710,500	97,695,000	89,070,000	93,181,400	96,134,400	+9,423,900

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 1999 (H.R. 4112)— continued

	FY 1998 Enacted	FY 1999 Estimate	House	Senate	Conference	Conference compared with enacted
Office of Compliance.....	2,479,000	2,286,000	2,086,000	2,286,000	2,086,000	-393,000
Congressional Budget Office	24,797,000	25,938,000	25,871,000	25,871,000	25,871,000	+ 874,000
Architect of the Capitol.....	192,156,000	221,898,000	121,434,000	184,701,000	184,186,000	-7,970,000
Library of Congress: Congressional Research Service.....	64,603,000	68,461,000	66,688,000	67,877,483	67,124,000	+2,521,000
Congressional printing and binding, Government Printing Office.....	81,689,000	84,000,000	74,465,000	75,500,000	74,465,000	-7,204,000
Total, title I, Congressional operations	1,622,477,800	1,742,563,600	1,113,521,700	1,652,715,583	1,653,165,100	+ 30,687,300
TITLE II - OTHER AGENCIES						
Botanic Garden	3,016,000	3,235,000	3,032,000	3,180,000	3,052,000	+ 36,000
Library of Congress (except CRS).....	282,309,000	300,871,000	291,701,000	298,128,542	296,516,000	+ 14,207,000
Architect of the Capitol (Congressional Cemetery and Library buildings and grounds).....	11,573,000	16,139,000	12,933,000	12,566,000	13,672,000	+ 2,099,000
Government Printing Office (except congressional printing and binding).....	29,077,000	36,200,000	29,264,000	29,800,000	29,264,000	+ 187,000
General Accounting Office	339,499,000	367,728,000	354,238,000	363,298,000	354,268,000	+ 14,769,000
Total, title II, Other agencies.....	665,474,000	724,173,000	691,168,000	706,772,542	696,772,000	+ 31,298,000
TITLE IV - TRADE DEFICIT REVIEW COMMISSION						
Sec. 409 Trade commission appropriation.....				2,000,000		
Grand total.....	2,287,951,800	2,466,766,600	1,804,689,700	2,361,488,125	2,349,937,100	+ 61,985,300

1/ Includes transfer from revolving fund of \$11,017,000.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1145

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, first let me thank my friend, the gentleman from New York (Mr. JIM WALSH) for those kind words about the Yankees. I am just afraid about the Texas Rangers first.

This is a good conference report. It was a good bill to begin with, Mr. Speaker, and more work has been done on it, especially the work concerning the Capitol Police and some other items that were put in here. I want to take very little time discussing the bill, because the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) has made all the statements that are necessary, and secondly, I will be submitting a statement for the RECORD.

To make sure that I do not run into the same problem he did of getting a note about leaving somebody out, let me just say that I also want to thank the staff on both sides, both the committee and subcommittee and personal staff, that have done such a great job in making this bill what it is, and making our lives much easier. Of course, I would single out Lucy Hand, the person who knows more about this bill than I do, which is the case around here most of the time.

The bill I think speaks to something that the gentleman from New York (Mr. JIM WALSH) and I believe in very seriously. That is the fact that in order to be proud of this government, in order to be proud of this democracy, we also have to make sure that we maintain the grounds and the buildings and the institution itself. One is not separate from the other.

Many times I am terrified of the fact, I hear people boast, as we all should, about our great democracy, and then always try to knock down the government and the institutions involved in it, as if a computer or something else ran this democracy.

When I see the work we do in this bill to make sure that we set a good tone and a bipartisan tone, we are setting the right tone, and especially in what we did for the Capitol Police, we know the tragedy we had here, and the statement that we are making in saying that we support them in the work they do, we support them in the future, we support them today in this conference report.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I would hope that all Members would support this conference report.

Let me move on now, Mr. Speaker, and speak about my friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. VIC FAZIO).

I was thinking, as I was hearing all of the comments being made about the gentleman from California (Mr. VIC FAZIO), and I know he is paying attention, because he wants to hear what I have to tell him. I may break into Spanish at any minute, and the gentleman will be terribly confused.

I was thinking, as I was listening to all the tributes, how I know the gentleman from California. It dawned on me that if we were to have taken photographs of the gentleman from New York (Mr. JOSÉ SERRANO) and the gentleman from California (Mr. VIC FAZIO) throughout the 9 years that I have been here, we would find that most of these photographs would be of me leaning over at a subcommittee or committee meeting or on the floor asking him something, and the gentleman from California (Mr. VIC FAZIO) advising me. That probably would be our photo album. I don't know how far he would get showing that to his grandchildren, but that would be the photo album.

The most important thing that I can say, and that that I have found to be the gentleman's strength, is that he fully understands all of the differences that make up not only the Democratic Party, but both parties.

In other words, when we come here, especially as a freshman, we believe we know everything there is to know about our districts, about our States, and certainly about everything that should happen in Congress. What I have found is that there was really one person here, the gentleman from California (Mr. VIC FAZIO), who knew exactly where every Member came from. That is really important. He knew every district, he knew every need, he knew everyone. He knew every desire of the Member.

When we talk about leadership and the ability of talking to newcomers, that ability to say, you are from New York; you are from New York City, you are not from upstate; you are from the Bronx; your district is primarily Hispanic and African American; language is an issue, immigration is an issue, the gentleman from California knows that about just about every single district in the Nation. That I feel is what prepares him, then, to talk to people.

On top of that, he happens to be something which is great, he happens to be a great human being. He happens to be a friendly person who is always ready to talk to someone and to smile.

He also taught me something else, which I am trying to do. That is, how do we pay our dues when we are members of the Committee on Appropriations? We owe our dues by playing a role in the legislative branch appropriations subcommittee, because what we do here is not popular all the time, and everybody supports it but nobody wants to vote for it.

We are the only subcommittee that has the support of the House, and then has to go around rounding up votes, and he did it year after year after year, with the kind of tone that got people to respect the work and respect the subcommittee.

Now, as the ranking member of this subcommittee, and hopefully chairman of this subcommittee in the future, I take very seriously what he taught me. He taught me by voice, he taught me by advice, but mostly, he taught me by example.

Let me be perhaps the last one today who pays tribute to the gentleman from California (Mr. VIC FAZIO) by just simply doing something that comes easy to me, and that is to quote a phrase in Spanish that we use every so often on this House floor. That is to say, (Member spoke in Spanish); tell me who you walk with, and I will tell you who you are. For 9 years I have walked with the gentleman from California (Mr. VIC FAZIO), and therefore, I am part of him, and that is not too bad. I thank the gentleman for his friendship.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the conference report on H.R. 4112, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for fiscal year 1999.

Chairman WALSH, the other subcommittee Members, and I share a belief in and commitment to Congress as an institution. This is the People's branch of our national government. Thousands of people work here. Constituents come here to petition their government or see how their laws are made. Tourists from all over the Nation and the world, officials of government at all levels, and international leaders, such as President Nelson Mandela yesterday, visit here.

We must, in this bill, ensure that Congress can operate efficiently, preserve and enhance the Capitol complex, and protect the health, safety, and security of all.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this conference agreement improves on a good bill and provides the resources needed to run this enterprise.

Chairman WALSH has explained the agreements in detail, but I will add a couple of comments.

The conference agreement is more than half a billion dollars above the House-passed bill, but this is almost entirely because the House bill, in keeping with the traditional comity between House and Senate, contained no funds for the Senate. Excluding Senate items, the conference agreement is really only about \$11 million above the House bill, and part of this is due to the fact that we have provided funds to improve the pay structure for the Capitol Police—weekend, holiday, and night differentials, and an extension of the longevity schedule.

For Congressional operations, the conference agreement includes \$1.7 billion, just \$31 million, or about two percent above last year.

This covers the operations of House and Senate Member and Committee offices, administrative offices, and the legislative support activities of the Congressional Budget Office, Congressional Research Service, and the Architect of the Capitol.

The agreement also includes \$697 million for other agencies, such as the Library of Congress, the General Accounting Office, and the Government Printing Office.

As in the House bill, it provides buyout authority to the Architect and the GPO so they can manage staff reductions and restructuring. Buyouts are less expensive, less disruptive, and less harmful to the affected workers than the alternative, reductions-in-force.

Mr. Speaker, I repeat that this conference agreement is a good one. However, there are a couple of concerns on our side that must be expressed.

First, however modest the increase in total spending over last year is, it is still an increase. In contrast, other appropriations bills contain drastic cuts and even terminations in programs of great importance to the American people, especially the most vulnerable Americans.

Second, the conference agreement, like the House bill, provides funding for only one quarter for the Joint Committee on Printing. This assumes that Title 44 reform, including disposition of JCP's functions, will be completed by the end of 1998. However, there are few legislative days left in this session and there has been no progress on reform since this bill passed the House in June. I believe it is irresponsible to leave oversight of GPO after December 31 unresolved.

To repeat what I have said again and again, it has been a great personal pleasure for me to work on this bill with our Chairman, JIM WALSH. He is an old friend of mine, and I am a long-time fan of his. He is hard-working and knowledgeable, totally fair and bipartisan.

Of course, we have a very able staff. Ed Lombard's experience and knowledge and Greg Dahlberg's skill and expertise are matchless. Tom Martin has provided valuable service, and each Member's staff has contributed to this process.

The other Members of the Subcommittee, too, have worked well together—Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. WAMP, and Mr. LATHAM, and the Chairman of the full Committee, Mr. LIVINGSTON. On our side, we have the Ranking Democrat of the full Committee, Mr. OBEY, and Mr. HOYER, and Mr. FAZIO, whose combined knowledge of the Legislative Branch is staggering.

This institution and all of us will miss VIC FAZIO very much. Other Members have talked about Vic's many talents and qualities—his experience, his insight, his wisdom, his fairness—but let me add that no one has been more consistently devoted to this place, or had more knowledge of its inner workings than VIC. His retirement will leave an enormous gap that we must struggle to fill.

Mr. Speaker, Chairman WALSH has done a good job and this is a good bill. I will vote for it and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO).

Mr. FAZIO of California. I thank the gentleman very much, Mr. Speaker. It has been a great honor to sit here and listen to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle comment about someone that they have gotten to know in whatever time we have spent together here in this institution.

I guess the first thing I want to do is say that I rise in support of the legislative branch bill. That will be the last time I will have the privilege of doing that, and I certainly owe it to my wonderful successors in this role, the gentleman from New York (Mr. JIM WALSH) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. JOSÉ SERRANO), who have done such a great job of upholding a tradition that a number of us, the gentlemen from California, Mr. JERRY LEWIS and Mr. RON PACKARD, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, and myself, attempted to put in place here, with the able assistance of some great staff, my

good friend, Ed Lombard perhaps most prominent.

I will put my remarks in the RECORD that go into great detail as to why the Members should support this bill on this occasion. However, I want to take just a few minutes, if the Members are willing to provide some time, perhaps not as much as I might have taken but just a little, to indicate how much my opportunity for public service in this institution has meant to me.

I suppose I could begin by referring to my father and mother. My mother is a great egalitarian, a person who believes in equality and loves the public arena, while she never served in it, she was always a person interested in current events; and my dad, who came through World War II, having spent most of his youth in military service in the South Pacific, came back to school on the G.I. Bill, not really having his first full job until he was 29 years old, when his children were already 6 and 4; who founded the Little League and served on the school board and ran for the city council, and did all those things that people still do when they believe that they have a role in giving back to the public something that they have received. I think my dad paid back his G.I. Bill a lot earlier than some other people might have done.

That led me to public service. I remember John Kennedy's campaign for Vice President in 1956. I think I caught a little bit of the political bug in my early teen years. The next thing I know, I am in California participating, as my good friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. JERRY LEWIS) said, in the CORO program; and before long in Sacramento, and a member of the Assembly; and before I had even had a chance to really understand that institution I became a member of this body for 20 years.

So for 33 years I have been privileged to be a public servant. Believe me, one of the hardest things about leaving Congress will be to reorient my life for at least a while to something other than the public side of life, because for me, it has meant a great deal.

I am not going to, on this occasion, say some of the things I want to say about service here. Suffice it to say I think we have some work to do. We need to attend to the requirement of building friendship and cohesiveness, and to the extent possible, bipartisanism among ourselves. Perhaps on another occasion I will dig deeper into those issues, because I think we have got to deal with them. We know that over the next several weeks and months it will be even more important that we succeed in the goals that our constituents need us to succeed in, our constitutional responsibilities with regard to impeachment.

Suffice it to say, today an opportunity for me has come along to say thank you. First and foremost, I need to thank my family. My wife Judy, is here and I want to tell her how much I appreciate her being my partner, and how much I love her. Judy, thank you.

I want to tell my children, Anne and Dana and Kevin and Kristie, how much I appreciate their sacrifices on my behalf, letting me do what I have done for so long. Anne's loss has been referenced here today. Those 8 years that she had after being diagnosed with leukemia gave us all a great insight into her courage and the spirit that moved her.

I was just reminded earlier about my good friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. JERRY LEWIS) asking the Pope to pray for her. I am sure that contributed greatly to her having that extra time. It really is an example of the way in which Members here can interact and go beyond partisanship and really be friends. JERRY has been a great one.

I remember one day when he stood here in this well attempting to put a model of the Capitol together while I described it. It was during the debate on the future of the west front. It was one of the more farcical moments in congressional history, but a good example of what we were willing to risk in order to make a point.

I think of my friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. HOWARD BERMAN), who would have been perhaps Speaker in the California Assembly, but some of us, like the gentleman from California (Mr. JULIAN DIXON) and I left and came back here and abandoned him. I think of all those others who have been part of the team, part of the group of people trying to move our common purpose along.

I think of the many people who worked with and for me, people on this floor, people on my District's staff, like Ann and Andy Karperos, who are here today with Judy, people who work in my office in the Capitol. We have so many who have come and contributed and remain friends. Those people have made a difference in issues large and small.

Most of all, I have to thank those people who have given me the privilege of allowing me to represent them. I came from Massachusetts and New Jersey to California at 22, and by 33, a group of people in the Sacramento Valley had let me represent them. It was a great gift they gave me, a gift that I am about to give back to them so they can pass it on to someone else.

These are diverse people, representing perhaps 1 million now; at one point or another over the last 20 years, as my district has moved all over the map, cattlemen and orchardists and farmworkers and State workers, people who teach at the University of California; people who have given me the privilege of, for a brief period in our history, of being their voice, their outlet to the democratic process.

I owe them the ultimate in thanks. I appreciate the gift they have given me, and I know that when I give it back to them, as I will in a few months, it will be intact and in the kind of shape where they can proudly pass it on to the next person who will have, I think, the greatest honor any American politician can ever have. That is being

elected to the people's House, the House of Representatives. I thank them very much and I thank all of my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the last time in support of a legislative branch appropriations bill.

I have enjoyed working with Chairman JIM WALSH and ranking member JOSÉ SERRANO, as well as the other members of the subcommittee this year. We are charged with a great responsibility, but often an unrecognized one—that of being the keepers of this great House by drafting legislation that insures that we always will have a roof over our head—or at least a dome—and gives our branch of government the tools to run effectively.

I have taken great pride in serving 18 years on this subcommittee and 14 years as the chairman. In fact, the only person who exceeds my current tenure on this subcommittee is Ed Lombard, whose assistance and guidance over my tenure as chairman and as a member of the subcommittee has been invaluable. Ed has served as the subcommittee's clerk since 1977. I hope that every Member of the House recognizes Ed's dedication to the legislative branch and to this process each year. He truly is the one that keeps this bill moving. With him here, I know that in the years after I leave this House that it will still be kept in order.

In 1981, as a new member of the Appropriations Committee, I was thrust in the position of chair of the Legislative Subcommittee. Ed Lombard and other observers may have considered my performance a little uneven those first few years. But I quickly understood, as every member of this subcommittee does, the significance of our work, and I became committed to a bipartisan approach for seeing this bill through the legislative process.

Fortunately, I was assisted in that endeavor for many years by the good humor of my friend, JERRY LEWIS, and then BILL YOUNG and RON PACKARD after him. I never ceased to be amazed at how the defense bill, with its hundreds of billions, would rocket through the House in an afternoon, while we labored—sometimes for two or three days—on sums that amounted to DOD rounding errors.

Yes it was a necessary if time-consuming annual ritual—the many floor amendments and the protracted debate about how to spend money on ourselves. And perhaps, in some years, the occasional unpleasantness of the experience was balanced by realizing that Members were becoming engaged in this important decision-making process.

There have been some victories, and there have been some defeats.

For nearly a decade, I have been working through this subcommittee on the possibility of building a visitors' center on Capitol Hill. Not only would this center add to the experience of visiting our Capitol Building, but it would be a great security enhancement.

We have appropriated funds for a feasibility study. We have appropriated funds for a design, which was unveiled three years ago. We have the cost estimates. All we need now to do is build it.

I am frustrated with the House Republican leadership, which has not been willing to move this needed construction forward for the four years in their charge. In light of the tragic violence that we were witness to on July 24 of this year that left two U.S. Capitol Police offi-

cers mortally wounded, we need to act and we need to act now. This tragic event, more than any other reason, speaks volumes toward the need for this facility and the need to move forward quickly.

The Architect of the Capitol, Alan Hantman, testified last year that the center would improve the physical and educational facilities for visitors, enhance the appearance of the East Plaza, and permit the adoption of measures that would "strengthen the security of the Capitol while ensuring the preservation of the feeling of open access."

The House Sergeant at Arms, Bill Livingood, is also a supporter of the construction of the Capitol Visitors Center. He testified in the same hearing that it would resolve many of the sensitive security issues that exist in the current security plan. He further testified that using a visitors center as the primary entrance and exit for the Capitol, would enable the Capitol police to regulate the number of people inside the Capitol building at a given time and allow them to be better prepared for an evacuation should an emergency arise.

In July, we saw why there is a need to improve security around the Capitol. Now is the time to demonstrate that we have responded to this tragedy and have done all we can to prevent it happening again in the future.

There have been some victories, too. Some are mundane, like energy efficient lighting. Some were massive construction projects, like the Hart Senate Office Building and the Madison Building to the Library of Congress. Some are historically significant, like the restoration of the Capitol's West Front and the restoration of the Jefferson Building, the original Library of Congress. I am glad to have played a small roll in all of them.

Now it's time to say goodbye to this bill and this institution. But I leave it in the capable hands of JIM WALSH, JOSÉ SERRANO and the next generation of Members who will wrestle with these institutional issues on behalf of all their colleagues and on behalf of all Americans.

I wish them the best—may their efforts meet with every success.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my good friend, the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. JERRY LEWIS), chairman of the subcommittee on VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations, and friend of the gentleman from California (Mr. VIC FAZIO).

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my colleague's yielding time to me. I hope my colleagues who are not on the floor but listening from their offices will make note of this passing, for we have heard today some of those words which will be the last words we hear from a man of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. VIC FAZIO).

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He is a man of the House, because like very few Members, he understands and believes in this institution.

While VIC and Judy are dear friends of Arlene's and mine, I must say that to see him leaving this place is a great blow to all of us who believe in the future of our democracy. For VIC, like

very few Members, truly understands that politics is indeed a part of our life, but our work involves this institution and the people's business.

He recognizes that most of the solutions that come forth to this well do not come forth in the form of partisan politics, but that major solutions and public policy are best melded by men and women working together on behalf of their people.

So, Mr. Speaker, we should all recognize today, as the likes of VIC come, very few come with that quality. As they leave the House, the House is lesser because of it. I would hope we would come together then bonded in our commitment to make certain that we do all that we can to preserve the government's work as we preserve this institution.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HEFNER).

Mr. HEFNER. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was not able to be here to commend our colleague. I would like to say this. Today there are two gentlemen in this House, both of them from California, who in my view epitomize what government is all about: the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), has been a friend for a lot of years. We worked together on the Committee on Appropriations on projects; and, VIC FAZIO, who has been my friend. I do not know if I have been his friend, but he has been my friend for a long while.

Mr. Speaker, these are two of the men that are responsible sometimes when tempers get hot and when the rhetoric gets high; two guys that can cross this aisle and talk to people and get some balance back into the argument.

Mr. Speaker, I would say to the gentleman: VIC, I do not know what you are going to do, but I wish you Godspeed. As a very dear friend of mine always said, I hope you live as long as you want, and you never want as long as you live. I am retiring too, so I want you to come by the home and visit me from time to time.

Mr. Speaker, I would say to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), Jerry, I want to thank you for being my friend over the years and working with me. I commend people such as yourself and VIC FAZIO for being a calm voice many times when all the storm clouds gather. You are a voice of reason, and that gives us some hope for the future for the body politic and for democracy in our great Nation. I wish the same thing for you.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BERRY).

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute also to a remarkable Member of the House, Congressman VIC FAZIO of California.

VIC has announced his retirement after 20 years in the U.S. House of Representatives. When he leaves this body at the end of the year, we will miss his leadership and his friendship tremendously.

I salute one of my party's leaders as the Chair of the Democratic Caucus who has led our party with outstanding leadership and integrity. He has also served as a great leader on the Democratic Health Care Task Force, bringing the caucus together around a terrific bill.

Personally, I came here 2 years ago and Vic has provided me with reliable and friendly mentorship and guidance on how the House of Representatives works and how it should work. He has always been a good listener, someone who always has time for junior Members such as myself, and has been there when a lot of us needed some good advice.

Congressman FAZIO'S insight into the issues and problems we address in this House have made him a valuable and trusted Member of this body. Our leadership, the House, and most of all the Third District of California have greatly benefited from his service.

Mr. Speaker, I believe I speak for all of my colleagues when I say that the departure of VIC FAZIO will leave a void in this institution. As he approaches retirement, I want to thank VIC for the guidance and leadership and congratulate him for his extraordinary career. I wish him excellent health and happiness in his retirement.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound regret that I am unable to be in the floor of the House of Representatives to extend a fond farewell to and honor VIC FAZIO, our distinguished Democratic Caucus Chairman and Representative of the Third Congressional District in California. However, the will of nature being what it is, I am in Puerto Rico overseeing relief and cleanup actions to ensure our recovery from the devastation caused by Hurricane Georges. I must declare that this is one of the worst storms to hit Puerto Rico this century, similar to Hurricane San Felipe (St. Philip) in 1928. My priority is to get Puerto Rico back on its feet.

Vic, on behalf of the 4 million U.S. citizens in Puerto Rico, I want to express our deeply felt appreciation for your responsiveness and willingness to champion our cause in the Congress. We are proud to call you our friend.

You have done an excellent job in meeting the challenges facing the Congress throughout this past decade. I salute your equanimity under particularly difficult situations and admire your efforts to place the interests of the American people ahead of party and personal ambitions.

I appreciate the support you have provided me as the elected representative of the people of Puerto Rico to the U.S. Congress since November 1992. I am particularly pleased that you were able to be with us during this crucial year when we commemorate a century of United States-Puerto Rico relations.

You have helped Congress face some of the most controversial issues, allowing everyone an opportunity to express their views and opinions, while bringing a healthy dose of common sense to the discussions. I wish you the best as you make your plans for the future and undertake a new course in life. It has been a privilege to serve with you and an honor to call you my friend.

Godspeed and best wishes.

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend, Congressman VIC FAZIO. Mr. FAZIO is retiring from Congress after 20 years of public service to the constituents of the Third District of California.

Congressman FAZIO leaves a legacy of hard work and dedication to his constituents, as well as the entire country. He provided leadership, guidance, and support to Members of Congress by serving as the Chairman of the Democratic Caucus.

His knowledge and reverence of government has made him a role model for all Members of this House, and those who aspire to be leaders.

Mr. FAZIO is a devoted public servant who has dedicated his life to making a difference in our society and our nation. He truly enjoys coming to work each morning and does each task with great passion. You will often find him working late into the evening hours assisting a constituent, colleague, staff member, or friend.

Mr. FAZIO, thank you for your leadership, guidance, and kind words of wisdom. It has been an honor to serve in Congress with you. I wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors. You will truly be missed.

Mrs. KENNELLY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, when Congress adjourns for the year we will be bidding farewell to a number of very fine members who represent the best that this Nation has to offer. Today, we are honoring one of the best of the best, VIC FAZIO.

I have known Vic since I came to Congress in 1982. He has helped me in many ways; in fact, judging from these tributes, there are few in this Chamber who have not been helped by Vic. He has been a superior leader of the Democratic Caucus—always fair, always judicious, always working to bring about a consensus.

We know Vic as someone who loves the people of his district. He has worked exceptionally long hours doing the very best job he could for them. We know Vic as someone who loves his Appropriations Committee work, helping all Members whenever he could, Democrat and Republican alike. And we have all seen him working the House floor during a vote.

But let me tell you that none of that compares to what I have learned about him since he became Chair of the Democratic Caucus and I became Vice Chair—his honor, his gentle character, his warmth, his outstanding personal friendship. I will miss VIC, but more importantly this House will miss VIC, as will his constituents. At least we have the comfort of knowing that whatever he does, he will do it exceptionally well.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. I rise to offer my best wishes of success to the future endeavors of our departing Democratic Caucus chair, VIC FAZIO. More important, I join my colleagues, particularly those of the Democratic Caucus, in thanking Congressman FAZIO for the direction, strategy and guidance that he has lent to us.

That our caucus is more unified and accommodating of different viewpoints is due to Congressman FAZIO'S ability to listen to all opinions of the caucus. That our caucus at the same time is focused on the unified Democratic agenda is due to his great working relationship with our Democratic leader and whip.

In addition, we are focused because from the time that he served as chair in 1994, he possessed a clear vision of what we should be doing to help America's working families.

However, it is not just the members of the Democratic Caucus who will miss his work ethic, intelligence, integrity and respect for this institution. I am sure that our colleagues in the Republican Conference will appreciate and miss his pragmatism and ability to forge bipartisanship out of the most partisan matters.

During his tenure as vice-chair of the Democratic Caucus, Congressman FAZIO was also chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, helping many of us here today reach Capitol Hill and serve our districts. He has been the true party stalwart and soldier.

Nevertheless, he has shown the same effective dedication to his legislative work to help the Third District of California, serving on the Appropriations Committee, ranking Democrat on its Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch and ranking Democrat on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development.

It goes without saying that his accomplishments cannot be summarized in two minutes. What I can say to Congressman FAZIO before I conclude is that on behalf of the Democratic Caucus, the entire House and your constituents of third district that you served with such distinction . . . is that we will miss your dedication and wish you all the success.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I want to join in the chorus of voices paying tribute to my good friend and colleague, VIC FAZIO. With the end of this session, Congress will lose one of its brightest lights.

Perhaps, the best thing I can say is the simplest—thank you.

When I came to Congress in 1995, it was immediately clear VIC FAZIO was someone to turn to when gridlock seemed inevitable or a solution impossible. VIC stood out as a role model, as an example of how to act effectively, with integrity and with dignity. It's easy to understand why he has commanded so much respect from both sides of the aisle.

I know I share the conviction of many when I say that VIC FAZIO has defined what it means to be a public servant—always keeping the common interest in the forefront. Just to cite one example, in his key role on the Appropriations committee, I don't know how many times he labored quietly to ensure that Northern California was treated fairly.

Vic, I will deeply miss your leadership, and your good counsel. You have left a great legacy for our institution.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to join my colleagues today to bid farewell to my good friend, Congressman VIC FAZIO of California, whose departure from this institution will certainly be a great personal loss for all of us and for the House itself. Having known VIC since his election to Congress in 1978, I have appreciated many things about our service together. But most of all VIC has impressed me as a member who deeply cares about the integrity of this institution, and about the people who serve here. He has been a "member's member," in the sense that he has always tried to represent the very best of Congress and to stand up for the institution against the criticisms that have come our way, particularly in recent years.

VIC FAZIO and I have served on the Appropriations Committee during his time here in the House, and I have appreciated his help and support on the Energy and Water Development Subcommittee, where he has always

taken a balanced approach to the many difficult power and resource issues that affect the Western States most particularly. He has been a valuable ally on several issues of importance to my constituents, and I have counted on his help and his support.

VIC has also been a member who has always had a clear sense of direction for the Democratic Party in the House, serving as the Caucus Chairman and speaking out strongly in support of the causes and positions that form the foundation of our party's political philosophy here in this chamber. He is able to communicate from the very soul of our Democratic Party, and we will all miss his spirit, his leadership, and certainly his friendship.

As he leaves this body and ends a 33-year career in public service, I think it is important for the Members of the House to pay tribute to VIC FAZIO who has represented the very best ideals of our institution and who has truly been a model public servant.

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my colleague and friend, VIC FAZIO.

VIC has decided to retire from this institution to pursue new adventures. Normally, this would be a sad occasion. But from where I stand, this is a time to celebrate. You see, like VIC, I have chosen retirement—not to settle into sedentary retirement or to vacate the public arena, but to explore new opportunities.

So for me, witnessing the end of this phase of VIC's career as a statesman does not make me sad.

But for this institution and for the American people, this is indeed a sad occasion. I know VIC very, very well. We are from the same State and the same party and serve together in our party's leadership structure and on the Appropriations Committee. I know that VIC has served all his constituents with distinction.

And when I refer to his constituents, I speak not only of the people of California's Third District, who have kept VIC in Congress for 20 years. I speak also of his colleagues in this body, because if anyone around here can be considered "our Congressman," it is VIC.

In an era where Congress-bashing has become a national spectator sport, VIC FAZIO has been courageous in his defense of this body and the men and women who comprise it. As ranking Democrat and past chairman of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee, VIC has not been shy about saying what is right and good about the United States Congress.

VIC has been tenacious in making sure that the men and women who have chosen public service over personal gain can serve proudly, even in the face of increasing partisan turmoil. He has worked hard to see that the legislative branch receives adequate funding and he has championed pay raises for legislative branch personnel, even when that is not politically popular.

VIC realizes that we are people, we are human, and we work hard to represent real people across America. VIC has never been afraid to stand up and speak the truth, even when the truth is the politically incorrect thing to say.

As VIC begins the next phase of his life, I salute him and know that he will be guided by the principles of fairness and justice that have made him such a respected colleague in this chamber.

Good luck to you, VIC, and thanks for all you have done for me, the people of California, and the American people.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Representative VIC FAZIO, who is leaving us after an exemplary career of service to our country. For 10 terms in Congress, Representative FAZIO has tirelessly served this body with the greatest of honor and dedication. I would like to thank VIC for all the years of hard work and determined effort he has given to the Democratic Party and to the U.S. House of Representatives.

VIC your model behavior in leadership and direction has been an inspiration to all of us. You have guided so many of us through both good and difficult times. We thank you for your loyalty to this institution and the guidance you have bestowed upon us over your many years of service.

The time and energy you have invested throughout the years warrants the utmost respect and regard from this entire body. Congressman FAZIO, thank you for all of the intelligence and integrity you have demonstrated throughout your years in Congress. This Congress will miss you and your devoted commitment to the entire country.

Mr. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my California colleague, hall mate/neighbor, friend, roll model, and mentor, VIC FAZIO. Long admired for his legislative and political knowledge and ability, as well his leadership capacity and style, he will be, in my mind, the consensus builder and public servant extraordinaire.

VIC was one of the first people I spoke with upon my arrival on Capitol Hill. His advice, counsel and guidance have made a tremendous impact on the path I now follow in this institution.

Thank you VIC for all you had done for California, especially northern California. Your commitment to our State on the issues that are important to people is commendable because you truly care.

VIC FAZIO has made an indelible mark on this institution and will be sorely missed. Your career has been exemplary and we are privileged to have had benefit of your insight, knowledge and positive energy.

Your distinguished leadership, combined with integrity and hard work, has been an inspiration to many. Those on both sides of the aisle seek have sought your counsel on a myriad of issues. Your tireless work as Democratic caucus chair has provided us a vehicle to share concerns, air opinions and develop consensus on a host of issues important to this institution and ultimately to the Nation.

I will miss your warmth and caring, and most of all you smile.

VIC, may you, Judy, and the family enjoy all the happiness and blessings life has to offer. You deserve only the best.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the conference report.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEY). The question is on the conference report.

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XV, the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 356, nays 65, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No 457]

YEAS—356

Abercrombie	English	Levin
Ackerman	Eshoo	Lewis (CA)
Aderholt	Etheridge	Lewis (KY)
Allen	Evans	Lipinski
Andrews	Everett	Livingston
Archer	Ewing	LoBiondo
Armey	Farr	Lowey
Bachus	Fattah	Lucas
Baesler	Fawell	Maloney (CT)
Baker	Fazio	Maloney (NY)
Baldacci	Foley	Manton
Ballenger	Forbes	Manzullo
Barcia	Ford	Markey
Barrett (NE)	Fossella	Martinez
Bartlett	Fowler	Mascara
Barton	Fox	Matsui
Bass	Franks (NJ)	McCarthy (MO)
Bateman	Frelinghuysen	McCarthy (NY)
Becerra	Frost	McCollum
Bentsen	Furse	McCrery
Bereuter	Gallegly	McDade
Berman	Ganske	McDermott
Berry	Gekas	McHale
Bilbray	Gephardt	McHugh
Bilirakis	Gibbons	McInnis
Bishop	Gilchrest	McIntosh
Blagojevich	Gillmor	McIntyre
Bliley	Gilman	McKeon
Blumenauer	Gonzalez	McNulty
Boehlert	Goodling	Meek (FL)
Boehner	Gordon	Meeks (NY)
Bonilla	Graham	Menendez
Bonior	Granger	Metcalfe
Bono	Greenwood	Mica
Borski	Gutierrez	Millender-
Boswell	Gutknecht	McDonald
Boucher	Hall (OH)	Miller (FL)
Brady (PA)	Hamilton	Mink
Brown (CA)	Hansen	Moakley
Brown (FL)	Harman	Mollohan
Brown (OH)	Hastert	Moran (VA)
Bryant	Hastings (FL)	Morella
Bunning	Hastings (WA)	Murtha
Burr	Hayworth	Myrick
Buyer	Hefner	Nadler
Callahan	Hill	Neal
Calvert	Hilliard	Nethercutt
Camp	Hinche	Ney
Campbell	Hinojosa	Northup
Canady	Hobson	Norwood
Cannon	Hoekstra	Oberstar
Capps	Holden	Obey
Carson	Hookey	Ortiz
Castle	Horn	Owens
Chabot	Houghton	Oxley
Chambliss	Hoyer	Packard
Clay	Hunter	Pallone
Clayton	Hutchinson	Pappas
Clement	Hyde	Parker
Clyburn	Istook	Pascarell
Coble	Jackson (IL)	Pastor
Coburn	Jackson-Lee	Paxon
Collins	(TX)	Pease
Combest	Jefferson	Pelosi
Cook	Jenkins	Peterson (MN)
Cooksey	John	Peterson (PA)
Costello	Johnson (CT)	Pickering
Coyne	Johnson (WI)	Pickett
Cramer	Johnson, E. B.	Pitts
Cubin	Johnson, Sam	Pombo
Cummings	Jones	Pomeroy
Cunningham	Kanjorski	Porter
Danner	Kaptur	Portman
Davis (FL)	Kasich	Price (NC)
Davis (IL)	Kelly	Quinn
Davis (VA)	Kennedy (MA)	Radanovich
Deal	Kennedy (RI)	Rahall
DeFazio	Kildee	Ramstad
DeGette	Kilpatrick	Redmond
Delahunt	Kim	Regula
DeLauro	King (NY)	Reyes
DeLay	Kingston	Riggs
Dickey	Kleczka	Riley
Dicks	Klug	Rivers
Dingell	Knollenberg	Rodriguez
Dixon	Kolbe	Rogan
Dooley	Kucinich	Rogers
Doolittle	LaFalce	Rohrabacher
Doyle	LaHood	Roukema
Dreier	Lampson	Roybal-Allard
Duncan	Lantos	Rush
Dunn	Largent	Ryun
Edwards	Latham	Sabo
Ehlers	LaTourette	Sanchez
Emerson	Lazio	Sanders
Engel	Leach	Sandlin

Sawyer	Spence	Walsh
Saxton	Spratt	Wamp
Schaefer, Dan	Stabenow	Watkins
Schumer	Stark	Watt (NC)
Scott	Stokes	Watts (OK)
Serrano	Strickland	Waxman
Sessions	Stupak	Weldon (FL)
Sherman	Sununu	Weldon (PA)
Shimkus	Talent	Weller
Shuster	Tauscher	Wexler
Sisisky	Tauzin	Weygand
Skaggs	Taylor (NC)	White
Skeen	Thomas	Whitfield
Skelton	Thompson	Wicker
Slaughter	Thornberry	Wilson
Smith (MI)	Thune	Wise
Smith (NJ)	Thurman	Wolf
Smith (OR)	Tiahrt	Woolsey
Smith (TX)	Torres	Wynn
Smith, Adam	Towns	Yates
Snowbarger	Trafficant	Young (AK)
Snyder	Turner	Young (FL)
Solomon	Upton	
Souder	Visclosky	

NAYS—65

Barr	Herger	Petri
Barrett (WI)	Hilleary	Roemer
Blunt	Hostettler	Rothman
Boyd	Hulshof	Royce
Chenoweth	Inglis	Salmon
Christensen	Kind (WI)	Sanford
Condit	Klink	Scarborough
Conyers	Lee	Schaffer, Bob
Cox	Lewis (GA)	Sensenbrenner
Crane	Lofgren	Shadegg
Crapo	Luther	Shays
Deutsch	McGovern	Smith, Linda
Doggett	McKinney	Stearns
Ensign	Meehan	Stenholm
Filner	Miller (CA)	Stump
Frank (MA)	Minge	Tanner
Gejdenson	Moran (KS)	Taylor (MS)
Goode	Neumann	Tierney
Goodlatte	Nussle	Velazquez
Green	Olver	Vento
Hall (TX)	Paul	Waters
Hefley	Payne	

NOT VOTING—13

Brady (TX)	Goss	Rangel
Burton	Kennelly	Ros-Lehtinen
Cardin	Linder	Shaw
Diaz-Balart	Poshard	
Ehrlich	Pryce (OH)	

□ 1225

Messrs. ROTHMAN, HALL of Texas, INGLIS of South Carolina, HERGER, and HEFLEY changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Ms. PELOSI changed her vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the conference report was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I was absent on rollcall 453, the LaHood motion to table H. Res. 545, impeaching Kenneth Starr; rollcall 454, H. Res. 144, expressing support for the Bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition; rollcall 455, H. Res. 505, expressing the sense of the House with respect to Diplomatic Relations with Pacific Island Nations; rollcall 456, H. Con. Res. 315, Condemning Atrocities by Serbian Police against Albanians; and rollcall 457, the Conference Report to accompany H.R. 4112, the Legislative Branch Appropriations for FY 99, due to official business. Had I been present, I would have voted "Aye" on all of these votes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and wish to be recorded as an "aye" vote on H.R. 4112, the Legislative Branch Appropriations Conference Report (Roll Call 457).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 550, and include extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3616, STROM THURMOND NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1999

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 549 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 549

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 3616) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1999 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 1999, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SOLOMON. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I would like at this point, before we begin debate, to acknowledge the presence on the floor of our colleague, the dean of the Texas delegation (HENRY GONZALEZ) who has been ill for the last year but who has returned to be with us during these closing days of the session.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, from this side of the aisle, we would like to say hello to the dean of the Texas delegation and welcome him back. He is one of the most respected Members of this body.

□ 1230

Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield half our time to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution makes in order the consideration of the con-

ference report to accompany H.R. 3616, the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999. The rule waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration, and it provides that the conference report shall be considered as read.

Mr. Speaker, the rule will enable the House to proceed with the expeditious consideration of the conference report for the Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999, the most important bill that Congress is called upon to enact each and every year.

I do note right here at the outset, Mr. Speaker, that the conferees have dedicated this legislation to Senator STROM THURMOND. And that, I believe, is something unprecedented, to name a bill after a Member who is still in office.

The preamble to this conference report cites Senator THURMOND's various services to the Nation, and he is certainly deserving of this singular honor. Here is a man who went into Normandy with the 82nd Airborne Division on D-Day, back during World War II, and still, today, 54 years later, he continues to serve our country as chairman of the very important Senate Committee on Armed Services, a committee on which he has been a member for 40 years. Forty years. STROM THURMOND has truly had a unique and influential career in service to the country, and we salute him here today.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to pay tribute to our colleague from South Carolina (Mr. SPENCE), the chairman of the Committee on National Security, and equally commend the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON), the ranking member of the committee. They are truly two of the most respected, outstanding Members of this body. They do, year in and year out, yeoman work on this extremely, extremely important measure. These gentlemen have served our country with distinction. Not for as long as STROM THURMOND has, but nobody else has, but they are certainly no less able and certainly no less dedicated. We appreciate the outstanding work that they and the conferees have done on this report.

And their staffs are to be commended as well. A lot of people do not know how much staff work goes into something as important as this, and on both sides of the aisle they are truly outstanding. They have made the very most of what they were given to work with, the budget ceilings being what they are, which we all object to.

This conference report is the product of a genuine bipartisan effort. It has, I am informed, been signed by every conferee, and that is highly unusual in itself.

Mr. Speaker, I, for one, want to pay particular tribute to what the conferees have done in addressing the readiness problem. I know there are people who question how a \$270 billion budget, when we are spending that much money, how it could still leave